

**Village of Schoharie - Regular Meeting
May 8, 2012**

Presiding: Mayor John Borst

Present: Trustees Jay Balliett, Larry Caza, Ed August, Jeremy Rosenthal and Clerk/Treasurer Leslie J. Price. Residents: Orrin “Duke” Mann, Terry Wilber, Michael and Diana Jackson. Schoharie Promotional Association (SPA), Darlene Patterson SEFCU Insurance Agency, Diane Becker Times Journal, David Avitabile and Fern Weber.

Meeting brought to order by Mayor Borst @ 7:38 pm

Fire Department Early Business: Mayor gave the following report Village-owned fire apparatus repairs. According to Harry Roberts of Roberts and Nichols Truck Repair, flood-related damage to 1421 (1984 Pierce) was repaired and it is in great working condition. The “new” 1423 (1992 Pierce) was serviced and maintenance repairs made and it too “pumps like a bear”. The old 1423 (1990? Ford) is being evaluated for repairs to flood-related damage and that should be submitted to the insurance company.

Privilege of the floor:

Diane Becker: Explained the renewal information for the workers compensation coverage and the NYS Assessment. The premium including the Assessment is \$31,241 and the premium excluding the Assessment is \$27,898. Diane explained that if the Village chooses to go with the Deferred Assessment option, at the end of the term there is the potential of an Assessment charge and that charge would be based on any indemnity payments that were paid out during the policy term.

Whatever plan the board decides to go with, PERMA or Diane need to know before the 6/1/12 renewal date.

Darlene Paterson: Enquired about the check from the Arts Council, had it arrived yet, how much it was and when would it be mailed to the SPA. Clerk gave report, the check had arrived (April 26) in the amount of \$2,130.00 and would be mailed to SPA before the end of the Village’s fiscal year (May 31).

Darlene also gave an overview for the upcoming 2012 events and asked the Board if the Village would sponsor an event 300 year Celebration.

Mayor said the Board would look into what event to sponsor, he also praised Darlene and Diane for all the work they do for SPA.

Minutes: April 10, 2102 Regular Meeting

Motion made by Trustee Caza seconded by Trustee Rosenthal and carried to accept the April 10, 2012 minutes as written.

Bills:

Motion made by Trustee August seconded by Trustee Rosenthal and carried to table the bills until next week’s Employee Meeting except the bills that will incur a late fee if paid after May 15, 2012

Motion made by Trustee Caza seconded by Trustee August and carried to pay the Workers' Compensation bill, PERMA, with the NYS Assessment fee.

Yea
4

Ney
1

Incoming Correspondence: Reviewed and Discussed

- a. American Legion Auxiliary – Announcement of Memorial Day Parade on Thursday May 24, 2012 and that Chief Harold Orelup will be the Grand Marshall. Also, they suggest the Village adopt a Proclamation declaring Thursday May 24, 2012 as “Harold L. Orelup Day”.

Motion made by Trustee Balliett seconded by Trustee Caza and carried to proclaim Thursday May 24, 2012 Harold L. Orelup Day. (proclamation attached)

- b. NYS Dept. of Transportation – Announcing that Ron Coleman replaced Barbara Thomas as the contact person for the TEA-21 Grant.
- c. Western Catskills Community Revitalization Council – Seeking a letter of support from the Village for a NYS Main Street Grant application for economic development (creation of commercial space in mixed-use buildings and rehabilitation of above-store apartments for safe affordable housing) in the hamlet of Jefferson.
- d. Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth – Invitation to attend Project Buoyancy community event on June 9, 2012, from 12:00 to 3:00, at Schoharie Central School.
- e. PERMA - Provided a report on a recently completed Loss Control Evaluation. Village received a total of 92 out of 100 points for various elements.
- f. SSA – Membership Renewal notice. Board decided not to renew
- g. Stone Fort – Schoharie County Historical Society (SCHS) to Advertising in the annual brochure for “Old Stone Fort Days” Trustee Rosenthal refused to vote on this motion because he is the President of the Schoharie County Historical Society

Motion made by Trustee Caza seconded by Trustee August and carried to purchase a full page ad in the annual brochure for the “Old Stone Fort Days”, the total ad is \$150.00, \$60.00 to be paid by the Village \$90.00 paid by 2 anonymous residents.

- h. Schoharie Central School – Future plans for the Village Hall. Exit School in June/July. Mayor Borst will speak with Brian Sherman, Superintendent of the School to see if there are any options for the Village to remain in the Elementary School

Outgoing Correspondence: Reviewed and Discussed

- a. James and Amanda Schultz – Letter returning \$269.97 for the August 2011 water bill that was paid twice.

Old Business: Reviewed and Discussed

- A. National Grid Emergency funding initiatives:
 - a. National Grid finally received the signed Bridge Loan agreement and Promissory Note from Schoharie CDC and the \$200,000 funding should be available soon to fund businesses that have received Main Street Grant Award letters from National Grid.
 - b. Several more Main Street Revitalization grants up to \$25,000 per business are being processed through Schoharie County Planning and Development

- (SCPD). SCPD stated that almost every business in the village has applied.
- B. Debris Removal – Dumpsters were made available for flood debris removal in the village. Arrangements were made through Schoharie Recovery and are eligible for Reimbursement from FEMA. Mayor asked Simmons Consulting to ask FEMA if whole house removals are also reimbursable.
 - C. Document Reprocessors – Clerk Leslie and Trustee Caza travelled to Document Reprocessors on April 16, 2012 to sort through records that were dried and sanitized. Of the approximately 264 boxes inspected, only 55 were deemed necessary to retain. The rest will be destroyed. Microfilm containing all documents copied during the Records Management process was retrieved and is being restored by Document Reprocessors. If readable, we may then have copies of many of the documents in the 55 remaining boxes, obviating restoration.
 - The rest of the proposed process may include:
 - a. Decide what records are critical and need to be restored for filing in the village office. Determine which need to be reproduced in hard copy and which may be reproduced digitally.
 - b. We can bring the remaining “dirty” boxes home for future use.
 - Clerk will contact Document Reprocessors to verify no duplications on the film and no reproducing cd’s or diskettes that hold no value for the Village
 - D. Debris Transfer Station Remediation – A PW (VSC5) was submitted to FEMA in the amount of \$126,100 to remediate the site with run-of-bank gravel to an average depth of about one foot. PW VSC5 was approved by FEMA and SEMO and signed by the Mayor. Lamont Engineers is now drawing up bid documents for remediation of the site. The drainage system was tested by village DPW and the lot completely drained.
 - E. Zoning-
 - a. Last month’s zoning issue regarding conversion of single-family or two-family residential homes into “boarding houses” was very amicably withdrawn by the proposer following a conversation with Planning Board Chair, Dusty Putnam.
 - b. What about homes damaged in the flood and abandoned to foreclosure. What remedies to mitigate potential health issues can we take under our LUL or NYS Building Code? To be discussed with Code Enforcement Officer, Joe Nelson
 - F. Proposed Natural gas Line - A follow-up meeting among some Town Supervisors and representatives of Cabot Oil and Gas Corp. was held on Wednesday May 2, 2012 at the County Board room to hear from Cabot on alternatives for a line transporting gas through Schoharie. Cabot proposed several alternative routes, some still going through the village. The exact locations cannot be determined yet but general locations can be ascertained since potentially affected owners are being notified. One of the alternatives potentially is along Waterbury road and by the village’s water plant and then directly through the village’s watershed. Mr. Buzon of Middleburgh and Mr. Milone of Schoharie proposed alternate routes through less populated areas and not through the village. One route Schoharie was interested in was going

through the farm land along Schoharie Creek where it is easy digging, unlike the karst on Barton Hill, and then up Route 30A to pick up the existing

IroquoisROW. That circumvents much of the watershed and utilizes an existing easement. Schoharie County Planning is meeting to help redirect the proposed route.

- G. Parade insurance – As discussed last month; NYS DOT’s new requirement for \$5 million liability coverage for use of NYS highway for a parade would require the village to increase our liability limit from \$3 million to \$5 million at a cost of about \$2,300 annually. The Town of Schoharie already has \$5 million in liability coverage and offered to sponsor the Memorial Day Parade. Perhaps the Town can sponsor other parades also, at no additional cost to anyone.
- H. Chief Orelup’s retirement party – Friday June 1, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Parrott House. Clerk must have RSVP by Tuesday May 29, 2012.
- I. TEA-21 Project – We need to reconcile finances on this project. We have started to layout the remaining scope of work and cost and need to meet with Town of Schoharie to complete the trail portion. We also have about \$9,000 from a “Creating Healthy Places Grant to apply toward this project.
- J. Police Department Administration - The issue of operating the village police department without a Chief was discussed among NYCOM, village attorney Breen and the Mayor. NYCOM provided information suggesting a Chief is not required but a more definitive answer is being sought. We should continue to operate with part-time officers, with guidance from the Board, until we hear otherwise. Also, Clerk to ask officers Ray Hoy and Bob Coons if they actually need the Police email that is listed on the Village’s website and if they actually need a phone line at this time
- K. Other

New Business: Reviewed and Discussed

- A. Town of Schoharie Records Restoration – The Town estimated that they incurred about \$28,000 in restoration costs from Document Reprocessors for complete hard-copy restoration of Village Court records located in the Town Office during the flood. We are discussing the handling of those costs, but it appears they are all eligible for reimbursement, so it is really a matter of cash flow rather than a liability.
- B. Village Office - Upon receiving a letter from Schoharie Central School asking if we plan to depart from the “village office” in June or July, the Mayor asked Town Supervisor Milone if space might be available, if needed, in the Town office for temporary quarters until the village office is repaired. Mr. Milone reiterated that the Town offered office space long ago and thought our request could be accommodated.

Economic Development Steering Committee: A steering committee was formed to meet with FEMA on economic development plans. The initial steering committee consists of representatives from the Village Board, Planning Board, the CDC, Main Street Committee and Schoharie Recovery. Attendance has been spotty and we need some additional members. Also there needs to be more interaction with all stake holders.

- C. Fox Creek Park - A PW is being prepared for reconstructing the pavilion at Fox Creek Park along with stabilizing the Fox Creek stream bank that was severely eroded during the flood. Schoharie County SWCD will inspect the site and prepare a remediation plan.
- D. Unmowed Lawns - How to handle. Notice should be published in the paper. Differentiation between flooded properties and others? Notify Schoharie Recovery/Volunteers to mow
- E. Midtel Cable Franchise Renewal Hearing – Need to reschedule hearing and re-advertise in Times Journal. Motion to hold the hearing on Tuesday June 12, 2012 in conjunction with the regular village business meeting.

Motion made by Trustee Balliett seconded by Trustee Caza and carried to advertize in the Times Journal to hold the Midtel Cable Franchise Renewal Hearing on Tuesday June 12, 2012 at 8:00pm

- F. Approve hiring Willard Lamont to water flower baskets on Main Street.

Motion made by Trustee Rosenthal seconded by Trustee August and carried to hire Willard Lamont to water Village flowers at the same rate as last year, \$7.25 per hour.

- G. SSA Membership Renewal – Decide whether or not to renew. See Incoming Correspondence item f.
- H. Water Billing – Revise billing to exempt houses not habitable. After researching and seeking advice from other municipalities and the Village attorney for revising the water billing for houses not habitable, Mayor firmly decided against this and there will be no further discussion on this subject
- I. Other – Trustee Caza brought back to the table the discussion of entrance and exit signs from the Village. No decision was made

The May Employees Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 15, 2012 at 7:00 PM. at the Village Office room 45 of the Schoharie Elementary School

Review of fiscal year 2011-2012 end-of-year financials, (except for interest income) on Thursday May 30, 2012 at 6:30 pm. and to advertise in the Times Journal. Next regular Village Board meeting is Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

Schoharie County Village Officers Assn. Meeting is Wednesday May 23, 2012 at Sharon Springs.

Motion made by Trustee Balleitt seconded by Trustee Rosenthal and carried to adjourn at 10:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie J. Price

JOHN J. BALLIETT, TRUSTEE
EDWARD AUGUST, TRUSTEE
LAWRENCE J. CAZA, TRUSTEE
RICHARD J. YOUNG, TRUSTEE

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JOHN J. BORST, MAYOR

LESLIE J. PRICE
CLERK AND TREASURER

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PROCLAMATION

Chief Harold Orelup Appreciation Day

WHEREAS, Harold Orelup has faithfully served the residents of the Village of Schoharie as Chief of Police since June 1982; and

WHEREAS, Chief Orelup, on a daily basis, has upheld his oath with an honor and conviction above the call of duty and has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with dedication, confidence and outstanding service; and

WHEREAS, Chief Orelup and the officers under his direction have worked hand-in-hand to forge a cooperative working relationship with other local, County and State law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, Chief Orelup, with limited resources, provided good caliber police service that helped make this community a great place to live and raise our children; and

WHEREAS, Chief Harold Orelup retired from the village of Schoharie Police Department on March 30, 2012 after almost 30 years of loyal service to our community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Schoharie Village Board along with our community observe May 24, 2012 as Chief Harold Orelup Appreciation Day to honor his service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Schoharie does hereby proclaim May 24, 2012 as

Chief Harold Orelup Appreciation Day

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the Village of Schoharie to be affixed this 15th day of May 2012.

Mayor